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RECENT LITERATURE.

Piersol's Histology.¹—This text-book requires more than a passing notice. The four hundred illustrations, with the exception of a little over ten per cent. of them, are from original drawings by the author, and give to the book an air of originality that is refreshing.

This book is the only American Manual of histology that has yet been published that meets the requirements of modern methods of teaching. It is not overburdened with accounts of methods and descriptions of laboratory appliances, too numerous to be brought into an elementary course. About twenty pages at the close of the volume, are given up to the discussion of the best standard method of fixing, mounting, staining and embedding, that are used in histology, without giving a bewildering lot of detail that is more calculated to appal than to inform the beginner.

This course seems to the writer a rational one, and is a feature that will especially commend the book to students, who wish to get an actual working knowledge of histology.

The descriptive part is full, without being burdened with detail that is of no essential use to the beginner in acquiring an elementary knowledge of the subject. The important tissue-structures and relations of tissues, are indicated in the text with heavy-faced type, so that the student has before him the important points indicated to him by catch-words.

Without pretending to be a treatise on embryology, the subject of the development of the tissues and tissue-elements is dealt with fully enough for the purposes of a text-book especially intended for medical students. The original figures are derived very largely from preparations made from the human subject and the book, therefore, has an added value, from the fact that it is a new contribution to the iconography of the subject.

Sufficient attention is given to the most recent developments in cytology and in the histology of the nervous system, in both of which great recent advances have been made to bring it up to modern requirements. The volume is well gotten up and altogether reflects much credit upon the successor of Professor Leidy, who was, it may not be generally known,

¹ Text-book of Normal Histology, including an account of the development of the tissues and of the organs. By George A. Piersol, M. D., Professor of Anatomy, University of Pennsylvania. 8 vo, pp. 439, with 409 illustrations in the text. Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1893.

the editor and translator of one of the very earliest text-books published in America on the subject of histology. That the successive occupants of the chair of Anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania should have taken such an important share in fostering the development of histological study in America, should be a matter of pride to all who are interested in scientific and educational progress.—R.

First Annual Report for 1892, Iowa State Geological Survey.²—A quarto volume of 474 pages containing the administrative reports, and accompanying papers illustrated by a number of maps and sections, some of them colored, and a number of photo-gravures. Of these papers Mr. Charles Keys contributes three: (1) A summary of the present knowledge of the Geological formations of Iowa; (2) An Annotated Catalogue of Minerals; (3) A Bibliography of Iowa Geology arranged in the form of a dictionary catalogue. The remaining three embody the observations of Mr. S. W. Beyer on the Ancient Lava Flows in the Strata of Iowa, Mr. H. F. Bain's studies of the Distribution and Relations of the St. Louis Limestone in Mahaska County, Iowa, and notes on Niagara Lime-burning Dolomites and Dolomitic Building Stones of Iowa by G. L. Houser.

The Paleozoic Group of Georgia.³—Dr. J. W. Spencer's report on the work of the Geological Survey of Georgia is confined to a detailed statement of the geology and economic resources of the Paleozoic Group developed in the northwestern Counties of Georgia. Under the head of Geology, the author gives the general characters of the systems of this group as exemplified in the region under discussion, the recent formations and evolution of northwestern Georgia, the physical features of the country underlain by Paleozoic rocks, and the local geology of the different countries embraced in the Paleozoic belt. Under Economic Resources the distribution and modes of occurrence, and the character of red and brown iron ores, manganese and aluminum ores, coals, building and paving materials, variability of soils, and water-powers of the country are set forth. In the closing chapter Dr. Spencer gives a bibliography of Georgia geology and a statement of the progress of the survey.

The report is illustrated by 10 plates, 34 cuts, and a geological map.

² Iowa Geol. Survey, Vol. I, First Annual Report for 1892, with Accompanying Papers, Des Moines, 1893.

³ The Paleozoic Group. The Geology of Ten Counties of Northwestern Georgia and Resources. By J. W. Spencer, A. M., Ph. D. F. G. S. (L. and A.) Report of the Geographical Survey of Georgia, Atlanta, 1893.